

Application No. 09/930,917  
Amendment Dated October 25, 2004  
Reply to Office Action of July 28, 2004

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claim 1 (currently amended): A stackable container stabilizer comprising:

an upper ring;

a lower ring having a larger diameter than the upper ring;

at least one leg attached to the upper ring and lower ring, the at least one leg adapted to support the upper ring and lower ring and engage the ground, the at least one leg comprising a ledge shaped so as to permit application of a downward force by a plant support user to insert a portion of the plant support into the ground, the ledge defined by a bend in said at least one leg, the ledge located below the position where the lower ring attaches to the at least one leg;

wherein said at least one leg is an elongated U-shaped member comprising a closed end and an open end defined by two portions of the U-shaped member;

the upper ring is attached to said at least one leg proximate the closed end such that a loop is formed above the upper ring by the closed end of the at least one leg;

the ends of the two portions of the U-shaped member are adapted to engage the ground; and

the container stabilizer shaped to enclose plants and support plant containers by inserting a plant container into the interior volume of the wire structure, wherein the plant container is supported above the ground by the wire structure.

Claim 2 (canceled)

Claim 3 (previously presented): The stackable container stabilizer of claim 1 wherein at least one ring is located between the upper ring and lower ring and attached to said at least one leg.

Claim 4 (previously presented): The stackable container stabilizer of claim 1 wherein the plant support is made of wire.

Claim 5 (previously presented): The stackable container stabilizer of claim 1 wherein the plant support is made of plastic.

Claim 6 (canceled)

Claim 7 (previously presented): The stackable container stabilizer of claim 1 wherein the ledge is defined by a bend in the two portions of the U-shaped member.

Claim 8 (previously presented): The stackable container stabilizer of claim 1 wherein the upper ring and lower ring are shaped so as to permit insertion of a plant container within the plant support, and upper ring adapted to engage a portion of the plant container.

Claim 9 (previously presented): The stackable container stabilizer of claim 4 wherein the at least one leg is attached to the upper ring and lower ring by any one of the group consisting of weld, solder, wrap, and epoxy.

Claims 10-11 (canceled)

Claim 12 (previously presented): A method for using a wire structure as both a supporting structure for plants and plant containers comprising:

providing a wire structure centered about a vertical axis, the wire structure having: at least two parallel rings vertically spaced and horizontally disposed connected to at least two U-shaped legs extending downwardly from said rings, the wire structure defining an interior volume; a ledge formed on at least one of said legs for securement of

the wire structure; and at least one loop formed by the connection of one of said legs and one of said rings for removal and transport of the wire structure;

wherein the at least two rings include an upper ring and a lower ring, the lower ring having a larger diameter than the upper ring, the upper and lower ring shaped so as to facilitate the stacking of a plurality of wire structures, and to accommodate the insertion of a plant container within the structure, the upper ring engaging a portion of the plant container;

inserting the legs into the ground for using the wire structure as a support for plants, wherein a downward force is applied to the ledge by a wire structure user to insert the legs into the ground without causing damage to leg-to-ring connections of the wire structure;

pulling up on said at least one loop to remove and transport the wire structure when the wire structure is not in use; and

inserting a plant container into the interior volume of the wire structure, wherein the plant container is supported above the ground by the wire structure.

**Claim 13 (canceled)**

**Claim 14 (original):** The method according to claim 12 further comprising inserting the legs into the ground for using the wire structure as a support for plants, wherein a downward force is applied to the ledge and said at least one loop by a wire structure user to insert the legs into the ground without causing damage to leg-to-ring connections of the wire structure.

**Claim 15 (previously presented):** The stackable container stabilizer of claim 4 wherein the wire is made of a galvanized metal.

**Claims 16-25 (canceled)**